

Where the Kootenay Central Railway is Now Building To!

THE OUTCROP.

Devoted to the Mining and Development of the Windermere and Golden Divisions of the District of North East Kootenay.

Book VI., Chapter 22.

Wilmer, B. C., Thursday, October 26, 1905.

\$2.00 Per Year.

SAVING PLATINUM

New Methods of Obtaining This Mineral From Ore

Oregon will this year produce about 25 ounces of platinum, and the greater part of this will come from the Deep Gravel placer mines of the Waldo district. As in the past California will take the lead in the production of platinum for America. California's platinum ranks second in quality to that of Colombia, the latter country having the distinction of producing the highest grade platinum in the world. Russia is third on the list, Oregon fourth and Spain fifth. The platinum ore and sand of these countries carry the five metals of the platinum group—platinum, iridium, rhodium, palladium and osmium—and also some gold, copper, iron and oxide of indium. The platinum of the old channel panned deposits of Oregon and California occurs in small steel gray granules. In rare instances pieces the size of a pigeon's egg have been found. Nearly all efforts to save platinum by mechanical methods by undercurrents, sluices and table riffles, have failed and because of the tediousness of the process of separating the particles by hand during the regular work of cleaning the gold from the sluices, miners have not possessed the inclination to bother with the rare metal. This alone accounts for the light showing of platinum production from the placer mining districts of Oregon and California. This is best demonstrated in the output of the one mine mentioned, which saved one-tenth as much platinum as the entire production of the metal in America last year, as shown by the governmental reports.

In the Waldo mines of Oregon platinum is saved by panning alone. When the mass of black sand, gold and refuse is scooped into piles on the bottom of the sluices at the cleanup, the entire mass is panned over water or the sluices of the running water of the sluices. Ordinarily the black sand and platinum float off the pan and is lost, but by panning over water it is collected at the bottom of the sluice and the black sand is scooped from the bottom of the vats and carefully panned and saved. It is tedious and requires an expert at the panning business to save the slippery gray granules; but the returns from the few places that make a practice of trying to save the precious metal, proves that it pays. A vast amount of platinum is lost in the placer mines of the Pacific coast every year because no attempt is made to save the mineral.

Two years ago an eastern manufacturing company, which uses a large amount of platinum in the manufacture of articles, placed a system of undercurrents on a number of Oregon and California placer mines. The purpose of the undercurrents was to save the platinum of the black sands, the principle being that the undercurrent or drawing off of the sands through steel gratings on the bottom of the sluices. But the undercurrents did not prove successful. They did good work in catching the flour and fine gold but could not hold the platinum granules. It appeared therefore that the only sure way of catching and saving platinum is to save all the black sand possible in the sluices and then pan the residue over water or tubs.

There are two methods of obtaining platinum from the ore. The old time method was to remove the metals associated with platinum by the successive action of nitric and hydrochloric acids, the platinum itself was dissolved in aqua regia from which it was precipitated by solution of sal ammoniac in the form of a sparing soluble double salt and called ammonium platichloride, with the chemical formula $PtCl_2(NH_4)_2$. This salt was washed and heated to reduce,

Much of the dreadfulness of boys from six to sixteen is due to the fact that in so very few homes a boy can be natural without disturbing everything and everybody. But whoever thinks of providing a place for the boys in which to keep their treasures undisturbed, where they can make all the noise they like? If a man needs a den to relax in, and everyone seems to grant that he does—how much more does a growing boy? Is it not dreadful to think of a live boy in an elaborately furnished room, and all the other members nagging him to keep still? If mothers would give anything like the amount of study and pains to their boys and the conditions which will bring the best results, that those who succeed with house plants we might have growing boys instead of what we most often see, boys hard and indifferent to every one.

DISTRICT CROPPINGS

And Other Items of Interest in a General Way

G. O. Buchanan, commissioner of the lead bounty, is reported as saying: "Yes, the bounty is slowly dropping. At today's London price, £14, 18s., 9d., it is only a little more than 21 cents a hundredweight, or about \$4.25 a ton. The rapid and steady advance in the price of lead seems to me to be due to natural causes. The demand is growing steadily, and the supply is not. The condition will probably be permanent, or at least will last for a long time. I shall not be at all surprised if the bounty is wiped out within a few months. It will disappear entirely when the price of lead on the London market reaches £16."

J. H. Harris has bought Isaac Nolan's ranch on Goldie creek, southwest of Canby. The sum paid for this ranch is said to be \$1,300 and it is a very valuable and fertile piece of ground, although the improvements so far made on it amount to very little. However, now that "Paddy" has it no doubt he will soon put it in good shape. His numerous friends are pleased to know that he has decided to stay in this part of the valley.

Chas. Munroe returned to Wilmer from Nelson on the Cranbrook stage Sunday, accompanied by a miner named McLeod. He brought supplies for the winter here and the two men have gone up Toby creek to the Black Bird group of claims, where they will continue development work until next spring. This property is situated directly above and west of the Nettie M., and of development work has already been done on it.

Land in the Columbia Valley that two or three years ago could not be sold at any price is now worth from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and some of it has actually been sold at the figures mentioned. It is the result of the success in fruit growing that has enhanced the price of land here and this is only the beginning of the commencement.

M. Nicholson and wife came down last week to Atholmer from the North Fork of Toby creek, where Mr. Nicholson has spent most of the past summer taking out ore from his claims near the B.C., and which will not be shipped until next spring. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson will spend the winter on their ranch near Goldie creek.

In New York silver is quoted at 62 cents, copper 16 1/2 and lead \$18. In London lead is £14 18s. 9d.

It is said the best bait for char fishing is put up in old socks.

Rumor again says the Hon. Bob Green will visit this district shortly. Bob will be heartily welcomed here.

Tom Brown came down from No. 3 creek last week and spent a day in town, being his first trip in since spring.

It is understood that while here Gold Commissioner Griffith arranged to have a floating bridge built at the Wilmer river landing.

Five more lumber men arrived at Atholmer on the Golden stage Monday for the C. R. L. Co.'s camps. The big gang is yet to arrive.

When an old-timer like "Paddy Ryan" pays \$1,300 for a practically unimproved ranch it is evident that land in the valley is advancing rapidly in price.

R. R. Bruce and G. A. Starke, who have been a month ago for the Yukon, have returned to Golden and are expected in Wilmer tomorrow. Mrs. Starke drove down to meet them.

C. W. Riley came down from the Nettie M. on Friday, where he has been since work first started. He intends to return to the mine again today and expects to remain there until next June.

The Outcrop has it on good authority that a strong syndicate is now negotiating to buy up all the unoccupied land in the Upper Columbia Valley, but the particulars of this big deal will not be made known for some time.

W. A. Gallihier, M. P. for this riding, was asked by a Toronto News reporter for his opinion of the report that Americans are getting control of monopolies of all kinds in British Columbia, and he replied: "Well, somebody has got to do those things. The fisheries are there, the timber limits are there, the mines are there. Somebody has got to exploit them. Canadians don't do as a rule. Canadian capital is either too timid or too slow, or sometimes too much absorbed in schemes outside of Canada. As long as our raw material is manufactured in Canada, I don't see any objection in letting foreign capital in just as far as it has a mind to come."

IS SOLID AS A ROCK

An Empire of Resources in B. C. to Conquer

A subscriber sends the following very interesting article to The Outcrop, which he says was written a short time ago by David B. Boyle, now of Winnipeg:

With the mining industry we associate ideas of excitement and speculation, sudden fortunes, a short life and a merry one. But in northern British Columbia today there is little excitement, there is no speculation, and to be hysterically merry would be like laughing in church. What is the meaning of it all? Have the soft breezes of the Pacific spoiled the country with their languorous embrace and sapped the energy of the people? Or has the portion of B. C. with its \$13,000,000 of mineral production annually reached its limit? Are there no more mines in the hills? Are the prospectors who have deserted the country never coming back?

It is never safe to prophesy about a mining country. Nevada went to sleep for a quarter of a century. Then some one discovered Tonopah and Nevada woke up again. If we are to understand the situation in British Columbia it is

TO TAKE UP 20,000 ACRES OF LAND HERE

Chicago Capitalists are to Improve Land and Bring Settlers

A scheme is on foot and within sight of completion, for the improvement and settlement of land in North East Kootenay. The land is round the headwaters of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers. It contains about 20,000 acres and is good soil. The scheme includes a comprehensive plan of irrigation, and the introduction of practical farmers as settlers on terms that will ensure their getting a fair start as homesteaders. The settlers will probably be drawn from the states of the middle west, of the same class as those now pouring into Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The promoter of the scheme is T. G. Procter of Nelson. He has interested Chicago capitalists and a beginning will be made very soon.

On September 28 Paul O. Stensland arrived in Nelson to meet Mr. Procter, as a result of negotiations with himself and other wealthy capitalists. He spent several days in consultation here. On the morning of Oct. 1 he and Mr. Procter left for East Kootenay "on a hunting trip".

They went over the ground selected by Mr. Procter, and the visitor was very favorably impressed with the project. He has gone eastward to confer with C. P. R. Land Commissioner Dennis at Calgary. He will then return to Chicago to report to his associates.

Mr. Procter informed a reporter of the Daily News that the engineers who had been taken to view the land and advise as to means, reported that the irrigation of the lands was perfectly feasible and would probably not be a very costly undertaking. The lands are near the line of the Kootenay Central Railway, the construction of which has already been begun from the north at Golden.

All who have travelled through the district speak enthusiastically of its fertility and of its climate. The new settlers will no doubt meet as fair fortune as their compatriots who are settling east of the Rockies. Mr. Procter is a man of myriad interests and enterprises. For his energy and perseverance he deserves all the good fortune he may win. The foregoing is taken from the Nelson Daily News and the consummation of the deal is looked forward to with the greatest interest here, as the land is some of the best in these valleys, and as it is located just about half way between the C. P. R. and the Crow's Nest lines, would materially assist in filling the valleys with other settlers each way.

Necessary to divide its metal mining history into three periods. From 1800 to 1860 the country lived on hope and surface showings saleable at small prices. From 1860 to 1900 the country lived riotously on speculation. The future was capitalized and sold at a premium to English and Canadian investors. From 1900 to 1905 the country has been undergoing a process of steady intensive development. The mining industry of southern British Columbia today is upon a foundation as solid as a rock. The rivers supply power, the coal mines coke, and the railways bring fuel to the smelters. There is a complete industrial chain with a resultant economy of production not surpassed anywhere in the world. The forming of this industrial chain within a decade has been one of the most stupendous achievements in the history of Canadian development. Think of what it means. It meant the building of a railway from coast to coast over vast mountain ranges and across mighty rivers. It took brute force to do it. It meant also the harnessing of rivers and the carriage of power 30 to 40 miles through an extremely difficult country. It meant the development of a huge coal mine with its equipment of 1,500 to 2,000 coke ovens always glowing. It meant the building of smelters in the boundary country to handle sell on to a million tons of ore a year, ore two thousand tons of treatment had to be accumulated down to cents per ton. It meant erecting and struggling with the very complicated problem of household energy. It meant facing and

overcoming very difficult market conditions in reference to the lead ore of the country. It meant the settlement of labor conditions in the face of that pest of all new countries, the man who thinks because it is a new country he can legislate out of natural law and create a Utopia. That has all been done within ten years. It was done by men who were face to face with new conditions and had to buy their experience. It was done very largely by Canadians, and it is something Canada may well be proud of. The railway was built by a Canadian company, the river was harnessed by a Scotchman, the coal and coke industry was developed by a Toronto company, the Granby copper mines were developed and made productive and profitable by a far-sighted old gentleman from the province of Quebec.

There had to be a pause for respite. Intensive development had to take the place of extensive development for a time. But there is still an empire of resources to conquer for Canada in Southern British Columbia. This peculiarly favored country has gas, coal, petroleum, iron, mountains of it, lime, silver, gold, copper, water without limit, lumber and fruiting. It cannot stay where it is merely pined for breath. If we stand off from the present quietude of the grasp the broad outlines we realize at once the vastly greater and

THE OUTCROP.

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W. P. EVANS, Publisher and Proprietor.

WILMER, B.C., THURSDAY, OCT. 26, 1905.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has issued a proclamation calling a public convention to meet next January at Ottawa under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association to discuss the increasing dangers to the Forests of Canada and the measures to be taken for their proper conservation. The object is a splendid one and should result in a great amount of good, therefore, the following is culled from the preamble of the proclamation:

"Canada possesses one of the largest areas of virgin forest of any country in the world, and is ranked by European experts first, or among the first, of the important sources of the world's timber supply for the future.

"The preservation of the streams in perennial and constant flow, which is largely controlled by the forests on the watersheds, will have an important influence on the industrial and agricultural development of the Dominion. The expansion of our electrical and mechanical industries will be regulated to a great extent by water, which forms the greatest source of power in all countries and some of our western districts are dependent on irrigation to ensure the success of agricultural operations.

"In all the older provinces the clearing of the soil has been carried to such an extent that the ill effects on the water supply and on agriculture are clearly marked, while on the western prairies the need of sheltering trees for houses and fields is seriously felt by the settlers.

"The early construction of the transcontinental railway, and of other railways, through our northern forested districts and the consequent opening of those districts to general traffic will increase the danger from fire which has already been a most active agent of destruction.

"These conditions are not new; they have from time to time received public attention, and during the session just closed parliament authorised the summoning of a convention for the more thorough discussion of the same."

A statistical report from Ottawa shows that the habit of drinking spirits and beer in Canada increased last year and the temperance people, especially in the east, are now celebrating the announcement in the usual flow of language and printing columns of reading matter against the evil fluid. No one questions the harm of over-doses of booze and there are comparatively few, even in the wild west, who would not like to see it banished from this fair Dominion, especially as a "socializer". The trouble in getting rid of it, we imagine, is greatly the fault of those people who are classed as the strongest advocates of the temperance cause, who will listen to nothing short of strict prohibition. That is where they make a big mistake. The majority of old "booze-fighters" will have their booze as long as they live, yet these very same men will do all in their power to keep their children from it, and are ever ready to advise young people to keep away from that which has made of them slaves. Then, if the temperance folk would accomplish their aim they must work for a law that will abolish the present treating system, which many in the west believe can be passed at any time. The theory is that an anti-treating law would pass as it would allow ancient booze-artists to supply their passions, and at the same time free the rising generations from the curse of being invited to partake of strong drink, which, generally speaking, they have no desire for. This line of argument appears quite reasonable, although, of course, there is nothing new about it. It does seem from the numerous failures to regulate the drink habit that the method to pursue is to make laws looking more to benefit the rising generations, and that it must not be expected to stop this habit in a day, for it will take many years to change a custom so firmly established.

The statistics show that the drinkers and smokers of Canada last year contributed to the Dominion exchequer in customs and excise duties a sum which amounts to \$3.09 for every man woman and child in the Dominion. The consumption of spirits last year was 1 010 per head of the population. An increase over the year before when the consumption was 952 per capita. Beer consumption is increasing, last year being 652 gallons per head. Wine consumption last year was .09 gallon per head. Tobacco last year consumed was 2 686 pounds per head.

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Attention is directed to the provisions of Sec. 17 of the Horticultural Board Act which reads as follows:

"No person, firm or corporation shall engage or continue in the business of selling, as principal, agent, solicitor, or otherwise, within the Province, fruit trees, plants or shrubs, or of importing for sale, fruit trees, plants or nursery stock into the Province, without first having obtained a license to carry on such business in the Province as in this Act provided".

All persons authorized to sell nursery stock in this Province are required by their principals or by themselves to deposit bonds, in the Department of Agriculture, Victoria, B.C., for the faithful performance of their obligations. The Public is therefore warned not to purchase nursery stock except from duly licensed persons.

Office of the Board of Horticulture,
Department of Agriculture,
Victoria, 26th July, 1905.

J. R. ANDERSON,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture,
Secretary.

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